

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2005. Currently, Claims 1, 2, and 6-20 are pending in the application. Of these, Claims 17-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, and 7-16 have been examined and stand rejected. Claim 6 is objected to. Claims 1 and 11 are amended without prejudice or disclaimer to filing a continuing application for the subject matter of the original claims.

The Rejection of Claims 1 and 7-10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Holly et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,516,907). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate Claim 6, which is indicated to be allowable, other than depending from a rejected claim. Claims 7-10 ultimately depend from Claim 1.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, and 7-10 are allowable in view of Holly.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 7-16 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holly et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,516,907), in view of Harvey et al. (Biochemistry, 1967), and De-Eknamkul et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,879,916), and in light of Hsin et al. (Blood, 1998). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate Claim 6.

Claim 11 has likewise been amended by incorporating Claim 6 into Claim 11.

Claims 7-10 ultimately depend from Claim 1, and Claims 12-16 ultimately depend from Claim 11.

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Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, and 7-16 are allowable in view of Holly et al., either alone or further in view of Harvey et al., De-Eknamkul et al., and Hsin et al.

The Objection to Claim 6

Claim 6 is indicated to be allowable other than depending upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has canceled Claim 6 without prejudice, in favor of amending Claims 1 and 11, therefore, rendering Claims 1, 2, and 7-16 allowable.

The Cancellation of Claims 17-20

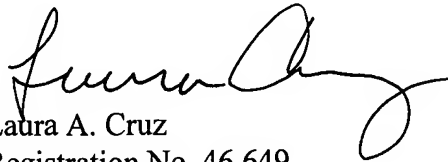
Claims 17-20 are canceled without prejudice and disclaimer to the filing of continuing applications for the subject matter of the canceled claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, and 7-16 are allowable. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may contact the applicant's attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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